

OLD INTEREST

FURY, 7

Or a Full and True

ACCOUNT

O F

Some Extraordinary Proceedings

Of that PARTY at

BANBURY, ✓

On the 28th of *January,*

AND AT

CHIPPING-NORTON,

On the 1st of *February.*

L O N D O N:

Printed for W. HIGGINS in the Year, MDCCCLIV.

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OLD INTEREST FURY.

PASSION and Violence being usual signs of a declining Cause, and Arguments which seldom appear on the Side of Reason and Truth; I cannot forbear to take occasion, from some late Transactions, to congratulate You, *my worthy Brother Freeholders*, upon your near and glorious Prospect of being delivered from the Tyranny of a Faction, that for so long a Time has usurped the Power of disposing of those Honours, which YOU alone have a Right to confer; — from the Tyranny of a Faction, long since despicable every where, but in the Eyes of an infatuated Few; and which certainly could never have existed thus long, had you had an earlier Opportunity of becoming acquainted with one anothers real Sentiments, and of exerting those Powers naturally and essentially your own as **BRITISH FREEHOLDERS**. Let Slander and Fury rage on the Side that stands in need of such Assistance, while the noble Cause of Liberty is safe upon its natural Foundations in Truth and Honour, and wants no other Defence, but a plain Account of the Conduct it regularly produces. The following Facts are therefore submitted to your

Consideration, in answer to a *false* and *scurrilous* Paper, most audaciously put into the Hands of many Freeholders, and professedly reflecting upon the *Moderation of the New Interest*.

Agreeably to that Respect, which has invariably been shewn by the *New Interest* Candidates to the Electors of this County, an Invitation was given to the Freeholders in the Neighbourhood of *Banbury*, to dine together on *Monday* the 28th of *January* last, in order that the said Candidates might have an agreeable Opportunity of paying them their Respects personally, and enjoy the Pleasure of making their grateful Acknowledgments, for the generous Support of the *New Interest* in that Part of the County; and how many Gentlemen, and what Numbers of Freeholders honoured them with their Company, is now well known; Envy itself having published it in the most expressive Language. Freeholders, and reputed Freeholders only were invited; and so well known and notorious was it in the Town, that the *Old Interest* intended to make some Disturbance on this Occasion, that the *Mayor* informed a Gentleman, who waited upon him on the Part of the Candidates of the *New Interest* to consult him in regard to the Conduct of the Entertainment, "That he had very strong Reasons to believe the Friends of the *Old Interest* would assemble a *Mob*, and give some *Disturbance*;" and asked his Opinion, if it therefore would not be right to engage the four Constables of the Town, in order to preserve the Peace, and prevent any Disturbance, the *Mob* were intended to create. This certainly argues a strong *Presumption*, that Matters were not *exactly* as stated in the printed Account dispersed by the *Old Interest* Party; and other Circumstances and

and Facts prove, beyond a Possibility of Doubt that they were totally different, and that some *Father of Lies* has therefore been employed to misrepresent a Conduct, which was incapable of Defence. For it is certain, by the Authority of two Persons, on their own Side, and who were actually employed upon the Service, that about *thirty* Persons, few or none of them being Freeholders, were ordered to *Obadiab Keel's*, had *half a Guinea* given them to spend, and were expressly commanded to provide themselves with Weapons, and remain there, 'till they were sent for. And it likewise appears, that this *half Guinea* Entertainment, tho' given beforehand, was duly earned, by what these Persons did and suffered afterwards. One of the *Weapons*, which was taken by the *New Interest* Conquerors, was a great Stick, like a Hedgestake, sawed off to the Length of about two Feet and a Half, and squared at the End, which was to strike with, for about four Inches. This being a fair State of one Part of the Preparations, made on the *Old Interest* Side, against the Entertainment of that Day, may I not then appeal to the common Sense of every Reader, for an Answer to the Slanders and Insinuations of the abovementioned printed Paper? How base and abandoned to every Motive of Truth and Honour must be the Person, who could commit to writing, publish and disperse, with all the Confidence due to Truth, such a Collection of the most abusive Falsities, upon a Point of great Importance, and concerning a Transaction so Recent, that *Hundreds* can refute almost every Article he has affirmed! What must we think of the Party and Persons, who can countenance and endeavour to gain Credit to such a Performance!

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The *New Interest* Candidates, after having dined at the TUN S, and drank such *loyal* and *public* Healths, as are always usual amongst the Friends of that *Interest*, sat out, about *four o' Clock* in the Afternoon, accompanied by only *Ten* or a *Dozen* of their Friends, to pay their Respects to the Freeholders, assembled at the other public Houses they had opened. They were followed indeed by such a mixt Multitude of *Women, Children, &c.* as is common on such Occasions, amongst which, out of Compassion and Charity, they threw, as has been their Custom in other Places, a few Handfuls of small Silver. No *Brass Money*, or BIRMINGHAM *Halfpence*, ever came from the Hands of the *New Interest* Candidates at these Times; which, 'tis apprehended, even this same Writer I have been speaking of, will scarcely affirm for his Friends of the *Old Interest*. They accordingly visited the *White Lion*, without meeting with, or suspecting any Disturbance; which, with the Circumstance of the smallness of the Company they brought along with them, is a full Proof THEY did not *sally out tumultuously*; but, on the other Hand, as they proceeded next towards the *Red Lion*, they found the Street leading to it, guarded by a considerable Mob, who immediately, encouraged as is most probable, by the Smallness of the Company, advanced up to them in the most riotous Manner, brandishing their Sticks, and shouting *W—n and D—d*. In this Manner the *Old Interest Mob* began the Assault betwixt *Roberts's Inn* and the *Red Lion*, and they were driven by the *Freeholders* up the Street, beyond the *Red Lion*. I ord *P—* and Sir *E— T—* went into the *Red Lion* to pay their Compliments to the Freeholders in their *Interest*,

terest, who had dined there; but the Fight was still continuing, when they came out again. Lord P—— and the Gentlemen walked down the Street, and were overtaken by Sir E—— (who had staid behind them, to speak to a poor Woman, who was crying, and in great Distress, for fear of her Husband's suffering by the Barbarities of the *Old Interest* Mob) a little short of *Roberts's*; and Sir E—— perceiving several Persons standing close together in the Gateway of this Inn, immediately pressed thro' them, and was followed by Lord P—— only. But his *Lordship* observing, that the Entrance of the other Gentlemen, who accompanied them, was opposed, the Gate possessed by the Enemy, and a Fray actually begun here also, thought it necessary for the Support and Assistance of Sir E——, and the Safety of the other Gentlemen, to call in the Assistance of the Freeholders at the *Tuns*. For this Purpose, his Lordship, with some Difficulty, disentangled himself from the Crowd, and alarmed the Freeholders at the *Tuns*. In the mean Time, (betwixt Lord P——'s going to fetch the Freeholders, and his Return with them, to *Roberts's*) Sir E—— still remaining within the Gateway of the said Inn (*Roberts's*) and hearing some one name *Harrison*, understood for the first Time, that he was in the Enemies Quarters; and as he knew this *Harrison* to be an Agent of Sir I——'s, he asked him, *What is the meaning of this; 'Tis very odd Behaviour?* To which *Harrison* replied, *YOU are IMPERTINENT: What do YOU here?* Then Sir E—— perceiving them about to fasten the Gates upon him, and shut him in, thought proper to retreat towards the Street, and in so doing he received, from *behind*, a Blow upon his Head, which, from all Circumstances, he apprehended must have come either

either from *Harrison*, or from some one of his Company. Lord *P*—— and the Freeholders from the *Tuns*, as said above, were now come up, the Enemy were forced, and, as might have been expected, Those of *Property*, and acting upon Principle, who were desirous of Peace, gained the Day; and the *half Guinea Mercenaries*, who first gave the Insult, were the first that retreated.

But it is further affirmed in the said written Account, “ That before the *New Interest* Candidates “ went round the Town, their Mob was collected together, and each of them had Sixpence and a Bludgeon given him.” The Truth of the Fact alluded to, is plainly this, and another striking Proof of the Assurance of this Writer and his Employers. The Landlord of the *Tuns* complaining that the Inn-yard was so incommoded with a Crowd of Women, Children, &c. that he did not know how to be able to serve up Dinner, on Account of them: A Person was therefore sent down immediately, who gave them Sixpence apiece for their own Dinners, but upon express Condition that they should leave that House; and his seeing them put the Condition in Execution, by not giving them their Sixpences but only by one, as they passed out of the Gate before him, is charged as a military Muster. And this is the Truth, and the whole Truth of the Fact, which this *Pen of his Party* has wrought up into so astonishing an Account. There was not a Bludgeon seen; the whole happen’d before Dinner; and the Money was not given to employ them, but to gain their Absence. *Truth* and *Falsity* cannot be more opposite, than the Assertions of this Writer are to the real Matters of Fact.

The like was the Case with the *Masons* from Lady *Dalkeith*’s. Money was given upon their abso-

absolute Promises to leave the Town without occasioning any Disturbances; and which, for any thing that appeared to the contrary, they honestly fulfilled. And, for Wonder's Sake, what could the Gentlemen of the *New Interest* want a Mob for? They began no quarrel; they studied in every thing to be quiet; and when a Disturbance was raised, they had a sufficient Number of *Freeholders* to have beat double the Number of Mercenaries their Enemies had been able to bring together.

I will not at present enumerate the several Reports that were spread about of *mean* and *ungenerous* Arts being used to raise this Disturbance. I should be sorry to think that any Gentleman could be guilty of what I myself should be ashamed of: Besides, I am ready to make large Allowances for the *present Heat* of that Party: The Loss of an Honour they have been more than *forty Years* in possession of, is, I must say, a *mortifying Circumstance*. Add to this (what they never before experienced,) Their *Purses drain'd*, their *Principles exposed*, and their whole *Characters laid open*; and shall we wonder that *in their Anger* they killed a *Man at Benson*? That they recommended an Imitation of the like desperate Conduct in other Places, by celebrating This in Songs, as a glorious Feat? That they were near destroying many more at *Banbury*? And that, had not Numbers intimidated them, they probably might have perpetrated *very fatal Effects* at *Chippingnorton*, as shall now be related?

Reports had been brought for some Days to several Persons of the *New Interest* of the *ill Treatment* they were to meet with at *Chippingnorton*; and these were confirmed by a Man, who that very Day going thro' *Kertlington*, in his Way to *Chippingnorton*, was advised by an Acquaintance, a principal

cipal Farmer there, *That he had better not go.* One likewise of the principal Rioters of the *Old Interest* at *Chipping Norton*, sent to his Son (who is of the *New Interest* at *Dedington*) to absent himself from that Entertainment, if he would not be knocked on the Head. And here I cannot but stop to observe, that this horrid Plot, contrived and hatched by *Papists* and the Friends of *Papists*, was discovered in the same Manner as the *Popish Plot* was formerly, viz. By the assiduous Care of *Friends and Relations.*

Lord Parker and Sir Edward Turner, on Friday the first Instant, came about Noon to the Town. They were met at some Distance from it by four hundred Horse, three hundred of which, at least, were Freeholders: and a convincing Proof was that Day given, how acceptable these Gentlemen are to the People in general of this County; for unexpected Numbers flocked in to their Defence from almost every Part of it, as the Behaviour of the *Old Interest* at *Banbury*, and the Threats against that Day, were become publickly known, and generally detested. When they arrived at their Inn, the first Step that was taken, the *Justices* that were present consulted, What would be the best Method to keep the Peace. It was resolved to send for the *Bailiffs*, and, as they were in the *Old Interest*, particular Care was taken that they should receive no Insult from the Populace at the Inn Door. One of these Magistrates pretended to be gone out of Town; the other came. He was then asked, what Care he had taken of the Town? but was found to have taken none at all. They gave him Directions therefore to create twelve new *Constables*, who should be watchful in the Discharge of their Duty. And here I must accuse the *Justices* of the *New Interest* of a great Piece of Impolicy,

policy, though they thereby gave the strongest Proof of their own *pacific Dispositions*; for by this Step, they put *long Staves*, or (if I may use the Expression) *legal Bludgeons* into the Hands of *Twelve* of their *Enemies* (for none but such, and those the most riotous, were created Constables) who by this Means were impowered to *knock down Men by Law*, and most unjustifiably broke many Heads under the false *Pretence* of *keeping the Peace*.

Things remained quiet however till the Evening, when a Party sallied out from the *White Hart* and insulted some of the *New Interest* that were drinking at the *Crown and Cushion*; but this was attended with no farther Consequence at that Time. But not long afterwards, a few of the *New Interest* passing by the *White Hart*, were again *abused* and *insulted*. The Circumstances were these; as they passed by the *White Hart* several Persons raised up a Shout of *D——d* and *W——n*, and challenged to fight any one of the *New Interest*. This Challenge was immediately accepted of by one of the said *New Interest* *Few*, who went directly up to them in Expectation of a fair Engagement. But, instead of that, he found himself instantly seized by several Persons at once, and hauled, by the Force of Numbers, into the Gateway. Here, having shut the Gate, they proceeded to exercise the most wanton Cruelties upon him. Some held him whilst others struck him with *Sticks*,—Ran Sticks in his *Face*—Beat him with their *Fists*—Called him a *Villain*—Threatned to lay him behind the *Fire*—Declared they had a good Mind to *hang* him—To cut his *Throat*, &c. particularly *Rouse*, the *Tanner*; *Nathaniel Haines*, the *Brasier*; and a *Gentleman's Servant*, all *Three* were seen exercising their Cruelties upon him at the same Time, tho' the printed Account affirms, that they were now all “sitting
“ in

“ in to a Game at Whist, very peaceably, in a back
 “ Room, very distant from the Street.” Another
 Person who generously ran to the Assistance of his
 Friend, had likewise the Misfortune to be shut with-
 in the Gates, and was likewise treated nearly in the
 same cruel Manner with his Companion. The *Cries*
 of these poor Wretches were heard into the Street;
 their *Friends* assembled about the *Inn*; they were de-
 manded of the Landlord; &c. and upon his (the
Landlord's) refusing to deliver them up, Extre-
 mities alone could be had recourse to, and nothing
 but Intreaties were till then made Use of. Tho'
 provoked, as a Number of Persons must be at such
 Treatment as this, they might still have forbore
 coming to Extremities, had they not perceived the
Ostler of the *White Hart* slip out at a *private* Door,
 and without any warning, *knock down a Man*, and
 then as hastily retire back into the House. The
 Fray now began in earnest. The Windows of the
 Inn were presently broke; the great Gates had a
 Pannel forced out, and were very near being broke
 open; and in short, the general Assault was carried
 on with such Heat of Resentment, that 'tis impos-
 sible to say what might have been the Event to the
House and its *Inhabitants*, had not the principal
 Gentlemen of the *New Interest* arrived at the Time
 they did. The Riot being with great Difficulty
 appeased, several Gentlemen of the *New Interest*
 entered the House, and demanded of *Haines*, the
 Landlord, his two Prisoners, and upon his *denying*
 them, told him the Mob was so far incensed, that
 it would be impossible to restrain them from pulling
 down his House if they were not very soon released.
 Fear of his own Safety beginning now to operate,
 he led one of the Gentlemen thro' a dark Passage
 into a *darker Room*, where six tormenting Devils were
 executing all the *wanton Cruelties* of the *Inquisition*,

so that (as has been observed elsewhere) *there can remain no doubt from whence these Counsels could proceed, or with what religious Spirit those Men were actuated, who could put such Counsels in Practice.*

The printed Account affirms, "That *Stones*, of three or four Pounds Weight, were thrown in at the Windows," but this must be *false*, for it was too hard a Frost to break up the Street. It is said also, that *Firebrands* were made Use of; but these could be no others but such as, together with broken Glass Bottles, &c. had first been thrown out of the *Inn Windows* upon the Assaultants.—These Particulars, tho' of little Consequence in themselves, are mentioned to shew the *strange Propensity* the Author of that Account must have to Falsities, when he could relate them in Things that were no *Way material* to his Cause.

The Prisoners being by these Means delivered up; the Disturbance subsided, and all was afterwards quiet. The Leaders indeed of the *Old Interest* by several subsequent Sallies manifested their Disposition to be still riotous, but they always found their Antagonists too attentive to be able to attempt any Thing against them.

Another Particular there is which ought not to be passed over without Notice, as the Ignorance and Stupidity of it would be exceedingly diverting had its previous Effects been less barbarous and inhuman. It is this; the *Bailiffs* and *Constables*, who during the Disturbance, were as riotous as any, and had then, by way of Amusement as it were, just been knocking a few Men down, came, *now all was over*, to desire the Justices that they would take Care of the Town. Whereas it is most certain, that had there been any further *Fear* of a *Riot*, the best Way to have prevented it, would have been the putting these *peace Officers* themselves in Custody.

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One of them could not, even at that Time, refrain from being insolent, and was very near meeting with a proper Chastisement from a worthy Gentleman, if the *Insignificance* of the *Person* had not made his *Impertinence* not worth regarding. To dwell upon every scandalous Falshood which has been advanced by the *Old Interest* Advocates on this Occasion would be tedious, and to little Purpose, as enough has already been said for Specimens, and to shew what Spirit they are of; I will therefore only detain you a very little While longer on this Subject. It is asserted by this *Old Interest* Writer, that "the *Old Interest* Ringers were sent out of " Town to prevent any Disputes that might arise" on Account of the Bells: I am, on the contrary, assured, that they dined that Day at a *Publick House*, kept by one *William Crawford* at *Chipping-norton*, and that a farther Insult was to have been offered to the Gentlemen of the *New Interest*, by burning their *Candidates* in *Effigie*, if their Enemies had not found themselves too weak to perform it.

Thus, *Gentlemen and Brother Freeholders*, the whole History, or at least the Substance and every Material particular of the Conduct of the *New Interest* Gentlemen at BANBURY, on the 28th. of *January*; and at CHIPPING-NORTON on the 1st. Instant 'tis laid before YOU; and if any Scruples should arise concerning the Veracity of this Account, I do not doubt but that every Thing which has been asserted herein is capable of being proved in a *judicial* Way, and more, perhaps, if Occasion should be given for it. The most flagrant Instances of general Riot and Confusion, if subservient to their own Purposes, are distinguished by the specious Titles of *the Voice of the People*, and *the Spirit of the People*. Their Ends, they think, can justify any Means. But whenever their
Ambition

Ambition and Views have rendered them odious to the People, and call down upon them *public* Resentment, Language becomes insufficient to describe, in Terms bad enough, the very same Disposition which they had before pretended to reverence *as the Voice of God*. Numerous Instances of this Truth, almost every Body is acquainted with; and the Difference of their Behaviour after their Murder at *Benson*, and after their Defeats at *Banbury* and *Chipping-norton*, is too singular to pass the Notice of any one. It is also farther obvious to remark, that as the Supporters of the *Old Interest* are so nearly connected with *Papists* both in their *political* and *religious Principles*, it is not very surprising to find them, on certain Occasions, breathing the same Spirit of the *Inquisition* with *Papists*. How is their shocking Treatment of the poor Prisoner and his Friend, as above related, to be otherwise accounted for. It is an Observation founded upon Experience, that People of this unhappy Disposition *cannot think differently from another, without hating him; nor hate him, without wishing to destroy him.* — I shall however account for these late *Concessions* on another Principle.

Parties, like *human Bodies*, when their *Dissolution* approaches, generally grow *delirious*, and fall into *Convulsions*, and the last Struggle for *Life* is seldom without *Violence*. No one can doubt the Truth of this Observation in Relation to the *Old Interest*; for that it is now *out of its Senses*, if it could be proved from nothing else, is manifest from these its *last Transactions*; for what happen'd at *Banbury* may be considered as one *Convulsive Fit*; whilst the *Disturbance* at *Chipping-norton*, has every Symptom of the *final Plunge* of an *expiring Faction*.

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 that it is now out of its power, could be proved
 from nothing else, is evident upon these last
 Transactions; for what could be at Bannockburn
 be considered as one Contradiction; it is, whilst the Old
 Party at Coppington, has every Symptom of
 the fatal Plague of an expiring Nation.